

(7) 12
An Exact
NARRATIVE

OF THE
Bloody Murder,

AND
ROBBERY

COMMITTED,

By *Stephen Eaton, Sarah Swift, George
Rhodes, and Henry Prichard*, upon the
Person of

Mr. JOHN TALBOT, Minister.

WITH

**The manner of their Apprehension,
Arraignment and Condem-
nation.**

ALSO,

**A List of all the other Persons that are Con-
demned, with the several Offences for
which they were Executed.**

Licensed, July 14. 1669.

ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

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Britain. 1669.

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

Bloody Murder

AND

ROBBERY

By Stephen Banton, Surgeon General

of the Army, and Captain of the 1st Regiment of Cavalry

MR. JOHN ALBERT, M.D.

WITH

The History of the Case, and the

Investigation and Confession

of the

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A Life of the Author, and the

History of the Case, and the

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Printed by A. G. & Co. at the Green in York

1840

The Relation of the Robbery committed by *Stephen Eaton, Henry Pritchard, and Sarah Swift, &c.* upon the person of *Mr. John Talbot, Minister.*

MR. Talbot having been sometime Minister of *London*, in *Essex*, upon some misunderstanding between him and some of his Parishioners, came to *London*, and took a Lodging in *Bishopsgate street*, where he for some time continued in quietness, going about such business as he had to do in *London*; till on *Friday, July the 2d.* passing from his Lodging and going down *Cornhill*, he perceived himself to have been dog'd from his Lodging; having this suspicion, he goes out of his way, and rambles up and down the *Raines*, still perceiving himself to be follow'd; coming to *Shoelane* he there goes into a house to drink, where he had not long been, ere one of the persons whom he perceived to

dog him, came in also, which confirmed his suspicion; having sat there some time, the party that dog'd him went away, and in a little time after he goes for *Grays-Inn*: but he had not gone far ere he perceiv'd himself to be again dog'd by him that came into the house to drink; coming to a Counsellors Chamber in *Grays-Inn*, he relates the story to him, with the occasion of his suspicion; which was, that he had heard some Bayliffs were employed to arrest him, and had forty shillings given them to do it, and that he believed these were Bayliffs followers that had dogg'd him. He tarried there from three of the clock till ten at night, and then (being advised by his friend) he took his way over the fields to go to his Lodging: He had not been long on his way, ere he had the same occasion of suspicion as he had before, being followed again; upon which he goes out of his way, but is still beset, some behind, some before, and on each side some. He altered his course several times, but could not get rid of his companions; yet still continued his way to his Lodging. At the end of *Old-Street* near the fields, he perceives them to draw nearer to him, upon which he quickens his pace, and makes what speed he can to get clear of them. By this time he perceives them to make directly after him, and call to one another to fall on; and is at last set upon by three or four, from whom, after much struggling he at last makes his escape to a Garden near *Annis-a-Cleer*, where he hoped to find some assistance, but was deceived in his expectation, it being not near any house; and being closely pursued by those that had before assaulted him, he is again set upon, and being able to

make little resistance, (having spent himself in struggling with them before, and running from them to make his escape) is easily overcome, whom when they had gotten down they stripped; and one of them taking his own knife out of his pocket, most inhumanely cut his throat and stabbed him, and then turned him on his face and left him for dead, after which they hid themselves in the Garden, it being then about eleven of the clock when the fact was done.

A little after, happened a very great shower of Rain, which caused the Brick-makers to come to their works to cover their Bricks, to preserve them from the injury of the weather, which having done they again return, (and now the great providence of God in this Rain and the discovery of the Murderers is very wonderful) for one of the Brick makers going along by the side of the Garden, and looking over, discovers Mr. *Talbot* lying naked, upon which he leaps into the Garden, takes him by the hand, and lifts it up, and finding no strength in it, concluded the man to be dead; calls to the rest of his company, who came to him, to whom he relates the accident, and immediately they went down to *Shoreditch*, where they got two Constables, and other assistance, and return again to the place where Mr. *Talbot* lay, whom they immediately took up, and began to question him about his condition, but he being deprived of his speech, answered as well as he could by signes; Having taken up him that was thus mortally wounded, and provided to carry him away to *Shoreditch* in a Wheel-barrow, they lookt about the Garden to see if they could discover any

thing else; one of them by chance espies Mr. Talbot's doublet, and going to take it up, discovers another man, (which was Stephen Eaton) the doublet lying on one side of him, and the bloody shirt on the other; and then called to his Company, telling them there was another man dead; upon which Eaton rises, and proves himself alive; the Brick-maker demanded of him what he did there: he replied, *He was locked out of his Lodging, and that he came there to sleep*; endeavouring to make his escape, but the Brick-maker taking hold of him, told him he must tarry with them a while, the other made resistance, till being knock'd down by the Brick-maker, and finding it in vain to make any further attempt to get off, he submitted.

The Constable carried him away, and secured him in the Stocks, till he had taken such further care of Mr. Talbot as was necessary. When he was a little revived, they bring Eaton to him, who presently took pen and wrote, *That that was the man that cut his throat.*

Some other persons being to view the place where this fact was committed, observed a person to peep out of a Ditch and to lye down again; a Constable coming to him, and asking what he did there? he answered, *No harm*; The Constable told him, he must go along with them; to which he seemed at the first unwilling, but seeing no other remedy, along with them he goes to Mr. Talbot, who presently wrote, *That that was one of them that set upon him*; this was Henry Pritchard, by Trade a Taylor.

Near the place where Eaton was taken, Sarah Swift lay asleep in an Out-house, who was apprehended,

hended; and apprehended by Mr. Talbot, as was
 assistant in this Robbery, and cryed out *Kill the
 Rogue*. She is noted for a notorious Thief, and hath
 already been burnt in the hand, so these being all ear-
 ned before a Justice were sent to *Newgate*.

On Monday *July* the 11th *George Rhodes* an Ap-
 prentice to a Broker in *Long-lane*, came to see his
 acquaintance *Sarah Swift* at *Newgate*; where by his
 discourse he was judged to be an assistant with the
 rest in the Robbery, and notice being given to the
 Constable to apprehend him, he repairs to his Ma-
 ster's house to enquire for him, but not finding of
 him there at that time, he leaves word with his Ma-
 ster to give him notice of him so soon as he saw him,
 which he accordingly did, and had him apprehended
 and carried before a Justice, by whom after his Exa-
 mination, not being able to give any account where
 he was that night, and venting some suspicious words,
 besides Mr. Talbot's testimony, that he was one of the
 persons that dog'd him, though he could not say he
 was there when he was rob'd, was sent to *Newgate*
 to the rest of his Complices.

Mr. Talbot being carefully looked to by his Physi-
 cians, was judged to be in a hopeful way of recovery,
 and was ready to satisfy all questions that were
 put to him, by writing his answer; He did constant-
 ly affirm, that he never saw *Sarah Swift* before in his
 life, to his knowledge, (though reports have been
 otherwise,) and that he had not any acquaintance
 with any of the rest of them, nor drank with any
 of them in his life. He could not devise what should
 make them to dog him so long, and so far as they did,
 and to deal so inhumanely with him; he was rob'd
 of

of two and twenty shillings, and two gold Rings.

On Sunday he had his speech, and talked much, none doubting of his recovery; but it lasted not long, for by reason of his straining to answer all questions propounded to him, although enjoined the contrary, he so weakened himself, that the use of means was rendered ineffectual, and on Monday July the 12th gave up the ghost. Thus you have the Relation of a Murder and Robbery committed by 6 men and a woman, who had all of them time and opportunity enough to escape, but the just hand of God would not suffer them to go unpunished, for so barbarous an Act committed against the Law of God, the Laws of the Land, and the light of Nature, but intimated them that they might be brought to condigne punishment.

Eaton being brought to the Sessions, pleaded Not Guilty; but the proof was so clear against him, the circumstances of his being taken, the bloody knife on one side of him and the doublet on the other, some bloody Tape found in his Breeches, and Mr. Talbot's affirmation under his hand, that he cut his throat, and rob'd him, the case was so clear that he was soon found guilty of the Indictment. Sarah Swift and Henry Prichard were both found guilty of the same Robbery. George Rhodes pleaded Not Guilty, but having nothing to justify himself, and able to give no account where he was that night, and saying, If he did find more should die with him, besides Mr. Talbot's testimony under his hand, That he was one of the persons that do'd him, was found Guilty, and all of them received sentence to be executed.

*A List of the other Prisoners that were
Condemned to dye, and their several
Offences.*

Thomas Reeves, was condemned for stealing a Horse, and Executed.

• *John Goodwin*, was condemned for stealing 15 l. in mony, and Executed.

Grace Hawkins, condemned for felony, and Executed.

Anne Hall, condemned for murthering of her Infant, and Executed.

Elizabeth Garret, condemned for murthering of her Child, and Executed.

Edward Oram, and *Robert Hack*, Clippers; both condemned, but Reprieved.

Edward Maddox, High-way man, condemned but Reprieved.

John Philips, High-way man, condemned and Executed.

Cuthbert Allen, condemned for breaking the house of one *George Page*, Executed.

Francis Baker, for stealing a *Farendine Gown* and other things, condemned and Executed.

Toby Wright, condemned for stealing a Barbers Instruments, Reprieved.

Edward Mace, upon a former Judgement, again Reprieved.

Wednesday, July 14.

The Prisoners were conveyed in several Carts from *Newgate* to the place of Execution. All the way as they passed, the streets were thronged with Spectators, and at *Tyburn* they were in such numbers that the Carts could not get up to the place of Execution, the Prisoners being led thither on foot, where being placed in Carts, Mr. *Partridge* a Minister made an Exhortation to them, and others prayed with them. Several of them were very penitent, confessing their sins, and begged of the Lord for pardon. And some seemed not at all concerned, though they had not many minutes to live.

Stephen Eaton prayed himself, to this purpose; That he had been a great sinner, and that he had greatly offended the Lord, by mispending his time, breaking of Sabbaths and keeping ill Company; That it was not long ere he should appear before the Lord, either on the Right hand or on the Left, with a *Go ye Cursed*, or *Come ye Blessed*; humbly begging of the Lord to pardon all his sins, to wash them away in the blood of his dear Son; That he would give him an assurance of his Love, and Pardon of his sins, before he sailed into the Ocean of Eternity.

George Rhodes seemed to be very penitent, weeping bitterly, but said little.

Two of the women were very penitent, and were much wrought upon while they were in *Newgate*, and brought to a sense of their sins by some Mini-

Ministers which came to them in Prison, and died very cheerfully with an assured hope of their salvation.

After the Prayers were ended, they being all tied together, the Cart was drawn from them, after which *Philips* struggled very much, but the rest were all of them soon dead. And thus have you an account of several persons condemned for several offences, and come to an untimely end, to the great grief of all their friends and Relations; which might have been prevented, if they had walked in the fear of God, and kept themselves to honest employments.

FINIS.